

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release July 19, 1979

Inez Connor 202/343-5634

### COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED TO AUGUST 17 ON FISH AND WILDLIFE COORDINATION ACT PROPOSED RULES

Acting upon requests from the public, the Departments of the Interior and Commerce have extended the comment period an extra 30 days on proposed regulations that would establish uniform procedures for Federal agency compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. The comment period will now expire on August 17, 90 days after the two Federal agencies published the joint proposals in the May 18, 1979, Federal Register.

Public hearings have been held in San Francisco, California; Denver, Colorado; New Orleans, Louisiana; Arlington, Texas; Twin Cities, Minnesota; and Washington, D.C.

The proposed regulations require all Federal agencies to give conservation of fish and wildlife equal weight with economic and other benefits associated with projects such as the discharge of industrial wastes, hydroelectric power generation, and flood control.

Under the proposal, Federal agencies would have to consult with State and Federal wildlife agencies on potential impacts on fish and wildlife at several points during project planning and development. The procedures are intended to minimize potential project delays and last minute modifications through early consultation.

The Federal wildlife agencies that must be consulted are Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Notice of the extension was published in the July 18, 1979, Federal Register. Written comments and requests for information should be addressed to the Director (AE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington D.C. 20240, 202/343-4767.

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